

58A Warren Road,
ASHFORD,
Middlesex, ENGLAND.

30th September, 1960.

Prof. J. Lederburg,
Dept. of Genetics,
Stanford University,
Palo Alto,
CALIFORNIA,
U.S.A.

Dear Prof. Lederburg,

Almost every active scientific worker finds that from time to time he has an idea which he feels to be important or stimulating, and yet not suitable for publication in a learned journal. The idea is in fact 'half-baked', or at least 'partially baked', and the baking may demand more time than he can spare.

I have proposed to Messrs. William Heinemann that an anthology of 'partially baked ideas' should be published. They have promised support for the venture if there is adequate response from potential contributors.

We hope that the volume will consist of from 100 to 200 articles, ranging in length from a few sentences to about 3,000 words. On this basis it will hardly be practicable to offer any worth-while financial remuneration to contributors, although a copy of the book will be available to each contributor at a reduced price and he will be entitled to 75% of Heinemann's fee for any subsequent reprinting of his article elsewhere. The general rule concerning length is that it should be roughly proportional to 'bakedness', the more far-fetched ideas being allotted least space.

The exposition should be intelligible to the average school science teacher, and abundant use should be made of visual aids in the form of simple line-drawings, diagrams, etc.

I am writing to you to find out whether you are interested in the general idea and whether you might be willing to contribute an article to the proposed anthology.

I have appended some further details on the enclosed sheet.

Yours sincerely,



I. J. Good

NA

The Scientist Speculates.
An anthology of partly-baked ideas.

Editor: I. J. Good, M.A., Ph.D.,
Deputy Chief Scientific Officer,
Admiralty Research Laboratory,
Teddington,
Middlesex, England.

Associate Editor:

A. J. Mayne, M.A., B.Sc.,
Leeds University Electronic Computing Laboratory,
Eldon Hall,
76 Vesper Road,
Leeds 5, England.

American Editors:

M. L. Minsky, B.A., Ph.D.,
Assistant Professor of Mathematics,
Massachusetts Institute of Technology,
Lexington 73,
Mass., U.S.A.

O. G. Selfridge, Ph.D.,
Group Leader, Group 34,
Lincoln Laboratories,
Massachusetts Institute of Technology,
Lexington 73,
Mass., U.S.A.